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ASSOCIATION OF
AMERICAN RAILROADS
OFFICE OF INFORMATION AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS
1920 L STREET, N.W. · WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036 · 202/293-4196

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, May 27, 1982 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended May 22 totaled an estimated 16.7 billion ton-miles, 2.8 percent below the corresponding week a year ago, the Association of American Railroads reported today. The 1981 week included the eighth week of the coal miners' strike.

Cumulative volume for the first 21 weeks of 1982 was an estimated 338.5 billon ton-miles, 8.7 percent below the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended May 22 totaled 387,394 cars, 2.5 percent below 1981 but 1.4 percent higher than the preceding week of this year. Compared with last year, loadings were up 12.0 percent in the East due to the 1981 coal strike, but were down 6.1 percent in the South and 8.7 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week of 1981, 17 of the 21 commodity groups were down. However, grain loadings were up 4,337 cars, or 20.8 percent. Twelve of the 21 groups increased from the preceding week of this year.

Piggyback

The AAR also reported that piggyback freight traffic on major railroads for the week ended May 15, totaled 35,299 cars, up an estimated 3.5 percent from the corresponding week of 1981, and 65,593 trailers and/or containers, 8.9 percent higher than last year.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first twenty weeks of the year was 694,473 cars, 8.3 percent higher than last year, and 1,241,470 trailers and/or containers, up 6.5 percent.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 5/22/82:

	Loadings in Week ended May 22,1982		Change from Corresponding Week 1981			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	25,223	I	4,337	20.8	I	547	2.2
Other farm products	4,573	D	283	5.8	I	140	3.2
Metallic ores	23,643	D	14,886	38.6	I	2,451	11.6
Coal	120,027	I	55,332	85.5	I	791	0.7
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	10,337	D	3,626	26.0	I	130	1.3
Nonmetallic minerals	8,987	D	4,735	34.5	D	998	10.0
Grain mill products	11,660	D	2,449	17.4	D	84	0.7
Food and kindred products	13,947	D	3,061	18.0	I	168	1.2
Primary forest products	15,281	D	3,938	20.5	I	93	0.6
Lumber and wood products except furniture	6,410	D	2,738	29.9	I	397	6.6
Pulp, paper and allied products	16,657	D	3,295	16.5	I	242	1.5
Chemicals and allied products	22,123	D	5,919	21.1	D	1,535	6.5
Petroleum products	4,517	D	898	16.6	D	158	3.4
Stone, clay and glass products	10,172	D	4,508	30.7	D	133	1.3
Coke	4,532	D	3,037	40.1	D	64	1.4
Metals and products	9,745	D	8,017	45.1	-	0	-
Motor vehicles and equipment	18,093	D	1,982	9.9	I	1,138	6.7
Waste and scrap materials	8,622	D	5,356	38.3	D	76	0.9
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	8,027	D	2,023	20.1	D	406	4.8
All other carloads	44,547	I	996	2.3	I	2,543	6.1
LCL traffic	271	I	66	32.2	I	33	13.9
Total Cars Loaded	387,394	D	10,020	2.5	I	5,219	1.4
Corresponding week of 1981	397,414						

	1982	1981	% Change
Total Cars Loaded (21 weeks)	7,866,552	8,707,447	D 9.7
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):			
20 Weeks cumulative	321.7 (Rev.)	353.6	D 9.0
Week ended May 22	16.7	17.2	D 2.8
21 Weeks cumulative	338.5	370.9	D 8.7

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